



Jack Sparks

June 2, 1938 - September 25, 2015

SPARKS, Jack – 77, of North Cape May passed away peacefully on Friday evening, September 25, 2015 after courageously fighting multiple cancers for the past 16 years. Born in Elmer, NJ, Jack was a resident of Lower Township for the past 48 years where he served on the Township Committee and was elected Mayor from 1973 to 1976. He attended the Wildwood School System from 1943 to 1954 and was a proud graduate of the Valley Forge Military Academy, Class of 1956. Jack attended the University of Miami and began his Apprenticeship as a Delaware River Pilot in 1957.

Jack was a member of the Pilots' Association for the Bay and River Delaware from 1961 to 1992 where he was the Association's Director from 1981 to 1983 and President from 1983 to 1989. Jack also served as the National Vice President of the American Pilots' Association from 1984 to 1992 and as the National President of the Association from 1992 to 2000. Jack was Commissioner of the Delaware River and Bay Authority from 1982 to 1992 and was elected Chairman of the Authority from 1988 to 1992. Jack also served as Commissioner of the Philadelphia Port Corporation from 1985 to 1992 and Vice Chairman from 1987 to 1992. He was Past President of the Ports of Philadelphia Maritime Society and a member of the Mariner's Advisory Council from 1985 to 2000. Jack was also a member of the US delegation to the International Maritime Organization, a special agency of the United Nations.

Jack was a member of St. John Neumann Parish, North Cape May and recently celebrated his 55th anniversary as a member of the Cape Island Masonic Lodge #30 F & AM.

Jack will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend. He was passionate about his faith, family, community and politics. He had a ready smile and was always interested in what others had to say. His ability to make others feel important was a quality that made Jack stand out as a leader and friend.

He is predeceased by his parents, Arthur and Laura (Estilow) Sparks and his brother, Robert Sparks.

Jack is dearly missed by his loving family including his wife of 53 years, Pati Sparks (nee Catanoso); three children, Art Sparks, Kelly Sparks-Stauffer (Sandy) and Christy Czewkowski (Charles); nine grandchildren, Alexandra, Anthony, Steven, Casimir, Caskia,

Morgan, Cezanne, Czarek and Chirico; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday (Oct. 1st) at 12 noon in St. John of God RC Church (Parish of St. John Neumann), 680 Town Bank Rd., N. Cape May where there will be a viewing from 10am – 12pm. Interment will follow in the Cold Spring Cemetery, Lower Twp.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the Brendan Borek High Tides Fund (supporting and aiding families affected by pediatric cancer), PO Box 41, Avalon, NJ 08202-0041.

(Spilker Funeral Home, Cape May) info and condolences: spilkerfuneralhome.com

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Although this website offers many options to send flowers, please observe the request of the family to make a contribution instead to the Brendan Borek High Tides Fund (supporting and aiding families affected by pediatric cancer), PO Box 41, Avalon, NJ 08202-0041.

Cemetery

Cold Spring Cemetery

780 Seashore Road

Cape May (Lower Township), NJ,

Events

OCT **Visitation** 10:00AM - 12:00PM

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St. John of God Church

680 Townbank Road, North Cape May, NJ, US

OCT **Service** 12:00PM

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St. John of God Church

680 Townbank Road, North Cape May, NJ, US

Comments



“ I met Brother Jack Sparks in 1971. I lived in a commune called God's Love((CWLF). Jack married my wife and I at Griffin Park. He was a very endearing brother who taught us the Word. Later he wrote about us in a book called the Mindbinders. My memories as a young Christian was greatful for that simple peri o d of time on my life.

Bill Wykel - April 18, 2019 at 02:38 PM



“ Jack will be missed by all who knew him. I remember him from the day we met, when he picked me up in Trenton for a tour of the Delaware River and Bay, as one of the kindest, gentlest, serious and yet fun loving people I have known. His devotion to his family, his leadership with the Pilots Association, and his sincere and friendly ways will always be remembered by his many friends and associates. The world is a better place because of the life of Jack.

My best to Pati and family.

Congressman Jim Saxton, Ret.

Jim Saxton - October 10, 2015 at 09:15 AM



“ On behalf of the entire Saxton crew, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to Pati and the Sparks family. Jack was a true gentleman and a tireless advocate for his fellow pilots. From a personal standpoint, Jack was a wonderful role model, taking the time to welcome a snot-nosed 23 year old Hill staffer into his and Pati's home and treating him like family. Thank you for that Jack. I will never forget and hopefully I have been able to pass that along to others. God's speed.

Mark O'Connell - October 09, 2015 at 10:38 AM



“ It is with sadness that Micheline and I have learned of Jack's passing. We have fond memories of our times together during his APA. Micheline joins me in offering our sincere sympathies to you Pati, and your family.

Micheline and Michel

Michel Pouliot - October 02, 2015 at 09:26 PM



“ On behalf of the Canadian Marine Pilots' Association, please accept our sincere condolences. We appreciated the excellent relationship we had with Capt. Sparks and know how much he will be missed.

Tristan Laflamme

Tristan Laflamme - September 30, 2015 at 11:39 AM



“ So sad to learn of Jacks passing. Our deepest sympathy to Patti and Family.
Bob & Sue Patterson

Robert Patterson - September 29, 2015 at 07:35 PM



“ Care and Compassion Spray was purchased for the family of Jack Sparks.



September 29, 2015 at 03:54 PM



“ Lisa P. purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Jack Sparks.



Lisa P. - September 29, 2015 at 10:56 AM



“ Everyday was a good day when Jack Sparks was in the office. He had fabulous ideas and knew how to find the right people to implement them. He was a brilliant "people manager". He was the only person that I'd ever met that was a Life Member of the Optimist Club. He had a great sense of humor and was probably the most generous man I've ever known. He brought an amazing energy into the APA office and shared his infectious enthusiasm for making the APA and the world a better place. Most importantly to me, Jack taught me many things about life and that it should be enjoyed. He made work life fun. I will miss our phone calls, but will always have the many words of wisdom and advice that you imparted to me in my head and in my heart. May you Rest In Peace and Rise In Glory, O Captain! My Captain!

Lisa Powell Townshend - September 29, 2015 at 09:48 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Jack Sparks.



September 29, 2015 at 08:25 AM



“ Pati., Kelly and Family, please accept our deepest sympathy. I knew Jack for most of his adult life. We were great friends as well as working together for many years. Rest in Peace my friend.

Ed & Nikki Colaprete

Ed Colaprete - September 28, 2015 at 05:16 PM



“ Jack was a wonderful person and your lives and this entire community has lost a great person. Our prayers are with you, Pati, and the family. We shared many, many wonderful and happy times together over the years. He will always be remembered in our hearts and never forgotten. He was special indeed. We love you Jack, you're sailing with the Best Pilot now! With all our heartfelt love and sympathy Danny and Dori

Dori Cluff - September 28, 2015 at 10:39 AM



“ Jack was my mentor and friend. I cherish the time and the trips we had together. His biting wit and his cheerful manner were life lessons to me. Fare well with fair winds sir.
Dick Buckaloo

Richard Buckaloo - September 28, 2015 at 06:06 AM



“ Jack was always genuine whenever we saw him. We last saw Jack at the Vegas Diner with Patti and Phyllis and Tony. I remarked that it was something Special to have three former mayours at lunch together,including mysel. He always greeted me as Alphonse God Bless Patti and the kids and Grandkids.He left a wonderful legacy for alll.....Al and Syl Palombo

Aldo Palombo - September 28, 2015 at 12:56 PM



“ Jack was an incredibly kind and decent human being with a heart of gold. His passing was a huge loss to so many. Jack had a fantastic sense of humor and made the office environment a pleasant and fun place to work. He had a heart of gold and made everybody feel special and important. I feel blessed for having had the opportunity to work with him and for him during his 6 years as President of the Pilots' Association. So many happy memories of him that will forever remain in my heart.

Denise F. Guida - October 01, 2015 at 08:33 PM